

## PROPOSAL EVALUATION

### *Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant*

PIN	4616	COUNTY	Yuba
APPLICANT	Yuba County Water Agency	AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$499,640
PROJECT TITLE	Yuba County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$718,340

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Evaluate and integrate water management strategies to deal with water issues in the region, specifically issues affecting the valley floor of Yuba County, such as flooding along the Yuba and Feather Rivers, urbanization and growth, the conversion of water use from agriculture to urban, conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources, recreation along the rivers, and waste water discharge.

**WORK PLAN - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has a detailed and specific work plan that adequately documents the proposal. Weighting factor is 3.**

**Score: 12**

**Comment:** The tasks include: establish a planning process, IRWMP meetings and briefings and preparing a draft IRWMP for RWMG and public review. The work items include: work plan, public meetings, identify available information, document flood control systems, establish current and future water demands and land use conditions and developing water management strategies. The budget and schedule relate directly to the work plan; however, the consultant costs appear to be high in both hours of effort and cost/hour. Additionally, some of the tasks in the Work Items Section lack some important details and documentation.

**DESCRIPTION OF REGION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented a detailed and specific description that adequately documents the region. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 5**

**Comment:** An extensive description of the region is contained in the application. The region is the portions of the Sacramento Valley in Yuba County and a small portion of Sutter County (Yuba City). Within this region, both groundwater and surface water are used. Common management issues are flooding, wastewater discharge, urban growth, and conversion of agricultural land to residential. Three watercourses border the region and the region is bisected by the Yuba River. Surface water and groundwater supplies are described. Environmental issues and impacts were addressed as part of flood protection.

**OBJECTIVES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific planning objectives. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 10**

**Comment:** Planning objectives include flood control, local water supply reliability, the Yuba Accord, water transfers, water recycling, local water supply protection, instream flows, and recreation. These regional objectives would help meet statewide issues, flood control, EWA, and CALFED. The planning objectives were developed by the RWMG.

**INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented how water management strategies will be integrated. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 10**

**Comment:** Multiple water management strategies have been developed and are currently being developed. Local water supply strategies include conjunctive use, water use efficiency, additional storage, water conservation, and recycling. Flood protection strategies include levee improvements, operation of Yuba and Feather Rivers, and reservoir capacity. Ecosystem restoration strategies include instream flow, habitat and wetlands enhancement. Growth management strategies include flood and water supply protection. Statewide strategies include EWA, water transfers, water substitutions, and conjunctive use. These strategies would result in meeting regional and statewide planning objectives as well as addressing both the current water management issues and the changing conditions in the future, while protecting the region's water resources.

**IMPLEMENTATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately detailed plan implementation. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 8**

**Comment:** A schedule for implementing the IRWMP, as part of a four-phase process, has been developed. Phase 1 would implement projects that have already been planned. Phase 2 would develop the IRWMP and planning and design work. Phases 3 and 4 would include development of programs and projects for long-term implementation. The applicant, working with its member units, would lead the implementation of the water management strategies developed through the IRWMP. The applicant would also work closely with State, local, and federal agencies. The water management strategies would address the changing conditions in the future while protecting the region's water resources. However, it is unclear how the applicant would monitor the IRWMP during its implementation.

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**IMPACTS AND BENEFITS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately presented and documented the impacts and benefits of the Plan. Weighting factor is 2.**

**Score: 8**

**Comment:** Groundwater monitoring would be used to assess how implementing these programs may affect other water users in the region and the adjacent area. Studies, monitoring programs, and modeling tools would provide an evaluation of how the proposed strategies may affect or benefit the resources within the region and in the nearby areas. The region would benefit from the proposed IRWMP because of: improved flood protection, groundwater quality protection, fishery restoration, ecosystem restoration, groundwater management, and the realization of growth issues in the region. However, while the application mentions that CEQA is underway for the Yuba Accord, it fails to address CEQA for this proposal.

**DATA AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data and technical analysis components of the proposal. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 4**

**Comment:** The application demonstrates an adequate supply of existing data and monitoring that would support most of the IRWMP's objectives. However, this section could discuss in greater depth data and technical analysis issues regarding already conducted technical studies or planned technical studies that would support the IRWMP.

**DATA MANAGEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has presented detailed and specific data management procedures. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 3**

**Comment:** Data used by the IRWMP is available to the public. New data that would be collected would also be available to the public through a process to be developed. DWR and other resource agencies would be consulted to ensure that the data collection supports regional and statewide data needs and would be integrated into DWR's and the State Water Board's statewide data management efforts. However, a process for gathering and managing data from development and implementation to dissemination to stakeholders, agencies, and the public could not be found in the IRWMP.

**STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented stakeholder involvement concerns. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 4**

**Comment:** The application identifies appropriate stakeholders, and discusses a process for stakeholder involvement in developing and implementing the IRWMP. However, the application does not address environmental justice concerns or specifically identify a process to include additional stakeholders.

**DISADVANTAGE COMMUNITIES - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented disadvantaged community concerns. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 4**

**Comment:** Implementation of the proposed IRWMP would benefit some DACs. Flood control, water recycling, and water supply benefits could occur for the DAC cities of Yuba City, Marysville, and Linden. The application does demonstrate that DAC representatives would be included in the planning process and are members of the RWMP. However, the applicant does not directly address the particulars on how water supply and water quality needs of the DACs will be met.

**RELATION TO LOCAL PLANNING - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented the Plan's relationship to local planning efforts. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 5**

**Comment:** Much of the information developed for the IRWMP would be based on data collected from local agencies within the region. Yuba County would assemble and review seven existing local documents. Information from the Yuba City, Marysville and Linda recycling feasibility study would be considered in the IRWMP. These documents would help in planning flood protection and groundwater management. The information would be used to develop regional water management strategies that address the needs of local agencies within the region.

**AGENCY COORDINATION - Scoring will be based on whether the applicant has adequately documented agency coordination issues. Weighting factor is 1.**

**Score: 5**

**Comment:** The information developed would be shared with other districts and agencies. The development of the IRWMP would be coordinated with local, State, and federal agencies. These agencies work with the applicant in flood management, water supply, and power generation projects and the Yuba Accord. The IRWMP would be coordinated by the applicant and the RWMG. The IRWMP would facilitate coordination with local planning groups and State and federal regulatory agencies.

**TOTAL SCORE: 78**